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SICULUS

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DIODORUS 'SICULUS', Greek historian of Agyrium in Sicily, c. 80 B.C.-20 B.C., wrote 40 books of world-history, called *Library of History*, in three parts—mythical history of peoples, non-Greek and Greek, to the Trojan War; history to Alexander's death (323 B.C.); history to 54 B.C. Of this we have Books I-V (Egyptians, Assyrians, Ethiopians, Greeks); Books XI-XX (Greek history 480 B.C.-302 B.C.); and fragments of the rest. He was an uncritical compiler, but used good sources and reproduced them faithfully. He is valuable for details unrecorded elsewhere, and as evidence for works now lost, especially writings of Ephorus, Apollodorus, Agartharchides, Philistus, and Timaeus.

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DIODORUS OF SICILY

I

DIODORUS OF SICILY

IN TWELVE VOLUMES

I

BOOKS I AND II, 1-34

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

C. H. OLDFATHER

PROFESSOR OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND LANGUAGES,
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA



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INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

WITH but one exception antiquity affords no further information on the life and work of Diodorus of Sicily than is to be found in his own *Library of History*. The exception is St. Jerome, who, in his *Chronology* under the Year of Abraham 1968 (= 49 B.C.), writes: "Diodorus of Sicily, a writer of Greek history, became illustrious."¹

Diodorus himself says (1. 4. 4) that the city of his birth was Agyrium in Sicily, one of the oldest settlements of the interior, which was visited even by Heracles (4. 24), whose cult was maintained by the inhabitants on a scale rivalling that of the Olympians, and this statement is rendered plausible by the importance accorded the city in his History, an importance quite out of proportion in a World History of only forty Books.² It is a striking coincidence that one of the only two Greek inscriptions from Agyrium (IG. XIV, 588) marked the final resting-place of a "Diodorus the son of Apollonius."

The earliest date at which Diodorus is known to

¹ *Diodorus Siculus Graecae scriptor historiae clarus habetur* (p. 155, i, ed. Helm). This date must mark the first appearance of a portion of his History.

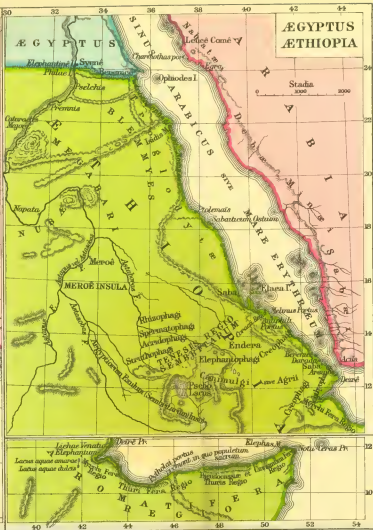
² At that he is more reserved in this respect than Ephorus, who, according to Strabo (13. 3. 6), was so insistent on mentioning the city of his origin, Cyme, that he once added, "At the same time the Cymaeans were at peace."

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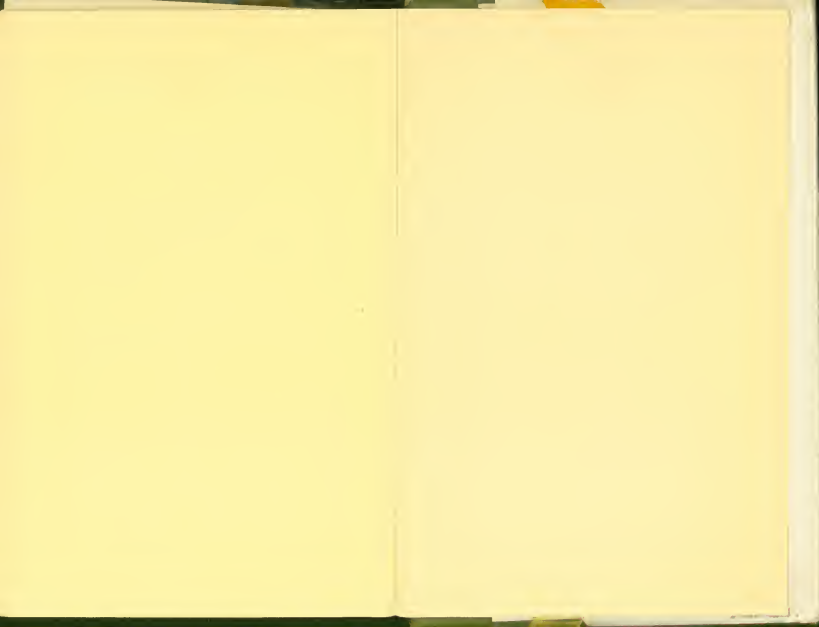
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